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SOURCE Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov

USSR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY
CRITICIZED AT 1952 MEETING OF TRADE UNION COMMITTEE

The Fifth Plenum of the Central Committee of the trade union of construction materials industry workers was held in Moscow on 30 and 31 July 1952. In a report to the plenum, Nikulin, Deputy Minister of the Construction Materials Industry USSR, stated that brick production increased 7 percent between 1950 and 1952. The average volume of production per cubic meter of kiln rose from 720 bricks in 1950 to 1,100 bricks in 1952.

The deputy minister stated that in a majority of cement plants the output by rotary kilns exceeds designed capacity. Cooling the firing area by water has made it possible to increase the output of clinker.

However, he continued the Soviet brick industry has been slow in instituting new methods into its manufacturing. The brick plants of the RSFSR and the Ukraine have converted only 40 and 8 kilns, respectively, to firing brick by accelerated methods. In the USSR as a whole, only 25 plants have been drying brick by accelerated methods.

According to Levitskaya, chairman of the Central Committee of the trade union, the USSR brick industry still has not mechanized its production methods and brick setting has not yet been mechanized.

P. A. Yudin, Minister of Construction Materials Industry USSR, severely criticized plant directors and trade union officials who have been slow to introduce improved work methods into manufacturing. The minister called upon the trade unionists to exercise greater control over labor conditions and mechanization of working methods. He also stressed the necessity of cooling kilns in cement plants by water and of using accelerated methods in forming, drying, and firing brick in brick plants.

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In reporting on the housing situation at enterprises of the construction materials industry, Basilov, Deputy Minister of the Construction Materials Industry USSR, stated that in 1952 more than 450,000 square meters of living space were to be put into use, but that, in the first 6 months of the year, only 63,800 square meters of living space had been made available for workers of the construction materials industry. He criticized Glavkirpich (Main Administration for the Brick Industry) and Glavtsement (Main Administration for the Cement Industry) for their failure to fulfill their quotas for providing living quarters at their subordinate enterprises. Only the following main administrations fulfilled their quotas in this respect: Glavstandartdom (Main Administration of Standard Housing Construction), Glavsantekhprom (Main Administration for Sanitary and Technical Products Industry), Glavgips (Main Administration for the Gypsum Industry), and Glavtop (Main Administration for the Procurement of Local Fuel). According to Basilov, building costs continue to remain high, mainly because the finishing work on buildings is done by manual labor rather than by machinery.

Bos'ko, secretary of the Central Committee of the trade union, stated that the main reason construction quotas were not being fulfilled was the poor organization of labor. He further stated that some chiefs of main administrations and plant directors still consider housing to be secondary.

He declared that oblast, kray, and republic trade union committees had been exercising weak control over the construction of workers housing by failing to make sufficient demands on their superiors for housing.

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